

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE**

**DECISION RECORD
DRURY BUNKS TIMBER SALE
As analyzed in EA-OR090-06-05**

Background:

An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Mohawk East Project were prepared by the Upper Willamette Resource Area, Eugene District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This timber sale was analyzed as part of that project, and would encompass approximately 1000 acres located in T. 15 S., R 1 W., section 27, T. 16 S., R. 1 W., sections 3 and 19, T. 16 S., R 2 W., section 25. Actions would include:

- o Thinning in Matrix land allocations
- o Riparian Reserve Management, which would include silvicultural treatments outside of no-harvest buffers and snag and down wood creation.
- o Road improvements, temporary road construction and road decommissioning.

Purpose and Objectives:

The purpose of the action in Matrix is to provide a sustainable supply of timber while maintaining valuable structural components (e.g., snags and down wood) and to provide habitat for a variety of organisms associated with both late-successional and younger forests. Specific objectives of the proposed thinning are to: (1) increase the proportion of merchantable volume in the stand, (2) produce larger more valuable logs, (3) accelerate the development of trees that can later provide large-diameter snags and down logs, (4) manage species composition, and 5) promote development of desired understory vegetation (RMP, p.200). The need for action in the Matrix is established in the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (RMP), which directs that timber be harvested from Matrix lands to provide a sustainable supply of timber (RMP, p.34). The need is also established from stand examinations that indicate that stands would benefit from thinning.

The purpose for action in Riparian Reserves is to enhance or maintain late-successional forest conditions, acquire or maintain characteristics needed to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives, and provide habitat for Special Status Species, SEIS special attention, and other terrestrial species (RMP, pp.18, 23). Specific objectives are to: (1) manage Riparian Reserves to control stocking and species composition; (2) reduce road related sediment sources to stream habitat by replacing /adding culverts and maintaining or upgrading road infrastructure; and (3) enhance terrestrial and aquatic habitat conditions by creating snags and down wood. The need for the action in Riparian Reserve is established by stand examinations, which show that portions of the Riparian Reserves are overstocked and deficient in late-successional structural components.

Public Comment:

The EA was advertised in August of 2006, in the Eugene Register Guard, as available for a 30-day public review period. One comment letter was received during the review period. Most comments from this letter were mainly subjective and did not ask for clarification on any issue regarding this timber sale. However, one comment focused on a road that was mislabeled in the EA. In T. 15., R. 1W, section 27, road 27A was labeled as a newly constructed road. This was incorrect. This road is an existing road, which would be improved for logging. In addition, road 27C is also an existing road, and not a newly constructed road.

Decision:

Based on the analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment No. 0R090-EA-06-05 and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), it is my decision to implement Alternative 2. This alternative proposes to thin approximately 1000 acres of Matrix and Riparian Reserve. Thinning in the upland would be designed to increase tree size through time, extend the culmination of mean annual increment, and capture anticipated mortality. Stands would be thinned from below where trees selected for harvest would be the suppressed, intermediate, and co-dominant conifer trees. Cut trees would be Douglas-fir and western hemlock. The silvicultural prescription would result in variable spacing. All Incense cedar, western red cedar, Pacific yew, and hardwood trees would be retained, except where necessary to accommodate logging systems and for safety.

Thinning in the Riparian Reserve would be designed to enhance late seral forest structure by accelerating tree growth. Depending on the effective shade zone needed and slope stability, no-harvest buffers ranging from 75-200 feet would be implemented along all streams within the project area. Three to four snags per acre and three down logs per acre would be created in Riparian Reserves (outside of no-harvest buffers). Western red cedar would be planted in T. 16S., 2W section 25.

This alternative would also construct approximately 1100 feet of temporary road, and 3000 feet of permanent road. Approximately 5600 feet of road would be decommissioned.

Decision Rationale:

Alternative 2 was selected because it best meets the purpose and need described in the EA.

Conformance:

This decision is consistent with the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (April 1994)* and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (June 1995)*, Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) Objectives listed on page B-11 of the *Northwest Forest Plan*. This project conforms with the 2007 Record of Decision *To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from Bureau of Land Management Resource Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*. For those species that required surveys under the 2001 ROD, no botanical species were found. For wildlife, this project either did not trigger survey protocols, or those acres that would have required surveys were either dropped from the project or contained within no-harvest buffers.

Administrative Review Opportunities:

The decision to implement this project may be protested under 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies. In accordance with 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for this project will not be subject to protest until the notice of sale is first published in the Eugene Register-Guard. This published notice of sale will constitute the decision document for the purpose of protests of this project (43 CFR 5003.2b). Protests of this decision must be filed with this office within fifteen (15) days after first publication of the notice of sale.

As interpreted by BLM, the regulations do not authorize the acceptance of protests in any form other than a signed, written hard copy that is delivered to the physical address of the BLM Eugene District Office.

Approved by:

/s/ William O'Sullivan
William O'Sullivan,
Upper Willamette Resource Area Manager

Date: 2/25/2008